

The Columbus Park Foundation  
P.O Box 858  
Columbus, IN 47202



## *What's Your Passion?*

We end 2011 with much to celebrate. First, and foremost, I want to thank our Columbus Park Foundation President, David Hayward, for his dedication and the extraordinary leadership he provides. We are also grateful for our Columbus Park Foundation members and their dedication to sharing with others what is needed to assure Columbus Parks and Recreation Programs and Services are available to our community.

Dollars raised by the Columbus Park Foundation "fill the gaps" between what our parks need to thrive and what annual budgets can provide. Columbus Parks and Recreation can carry on valuable, recreational activities for both the youth and adults in our community and lives are enriched because of ***your passion*** in one or more area(s) funded by our foundation. You may not even be aware of the extent of programs funded by our foundation so we have outlined a brief description of each opportunity for you to ***share your passion***.

Without you, the Columbus Park Foundation could not offer any of the successes you will find laced through our "focus" newsletter. So my question to you is, "What is ***Your*** passion?" I hope you will read on to learn more about ways your generosity can touch the lives of many or, in some cases, even change the course of a life.

With Gratitude,

Ben Wagner  
Director, Columbus Parks and Recreation

## **People Trails**

We celebrate the 21 miles of People Trails enjoyed by runners, bikers, walkers, those with special needs, commuters and more. The People Trails allow our community to participate in healthy activities as well as offer an alternative means of transportation for many.

## **Parks and Green Spaces**

We celebrate the 23 Parks and Green Spaces, diligently maintained by Columbus Parks and Recreation staff members. These green, open spaces provide families and individuals a way to enjoy the great outdoors while creating memories, exercise and more. Our 19 playgrounds maintained by Park staff allow children to participate in fun activities, stay physical, and simply ~ play with other children.

Our facilities such as Donner Center, Hamilton Center and the Mill Race Amphitheater offer a place for events and programs that make our community a fun place to live and enjoy.

## **Chuck Wilt Scholarship Program**

We celebrate the opportunity to offer scholarships, dedicated to our previous Director, Chuck Wilt, which provide funding for any child with the hope of being a part of programs and athletics offered by Columbus Parks & Recreation. The goal of the Chuck Wilt Scholarship Program *is to never turn a child away* but instead have funds available for every child to pursue their dream of learning and gaining confidence through Columbus Parks & Recreation activities.

## **Our Endowment**

We celebrate those who have provided the "seed dollars" to grow the legacy of Columbus Parks and Recreation programs and services for future generations to enjoy. We look forward to continued support to assure our Programs and Services are always available in order to meet the core "Values" essential to making Columbus a great community!

## The Columbus Park Foundation Members

President: Dave Hayward  
Vice President: Dr. Helen Kinsey  
Secretary: Tasha Mann  
Treasurer: Brian McBroom  
Chap Blackwell III

John Elwood  
Andy Mann  
Chip Orben  
Imelda Vazquez  
Ben Wagner  
Chuck Wilt

## **Mission**

To aid and encourage the Columbus Department of Parks and Recreation in the acquisition, conservation and development of lands for park and recreation purposes; to secure long-term financial support, including an endowment fund, for park and recreation projects; and to support and encourage full community participation in recreation programs through scholarships and other resources.

## **Our Values**

Quality of Life  
Healthy Lifestyles  
Environment Sustainability  
Community & Economic Growth  
Stewardship of Resources

**Please join us for the Columbus Park Foundation Annual Meeting  
The Public is Welcome & Encouraged to Join Us  
Monday, February 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm at Donner Center**

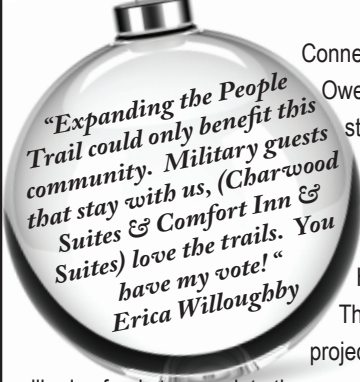
**We thank you for your support for Columbus Parks and Recreation through  
The Columbus Park Foundation!  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year on behalf of all of the staff and volunteers of  
Columbus Parks and Recreation Department & The Columbus Park Foundation!**



# We Asked You About Our People Trail System...

The photo you see on the front page of our newsletter depicts the celebration on November 17th in which friends and “users” alike gathered for the Ribbon Cutting of the new addition to your People Trail System. An addition of 2.1 miles to the existing People Trails now connects the northernmost section of the trail, near Blackwell Park and Columbus Municipal Airport, with Owens Bend Park (The Park can be used as a “Trailhead” for those who may want to begin their trip on the People Trails from the northern point of Columbus by parking their vehicle and changing means of transportation). This also marks our FIRST City/County trail connection.

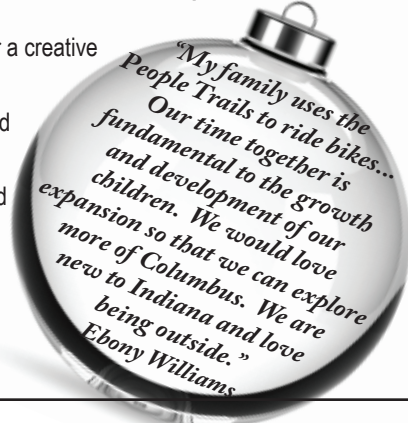
Celebrating with us were Mayor Fred Armstrong, Parks Director Ben Wagner and several avid People Trail user groups including *Girls On The Run*, *the Columbus Running Club*, *Wednesday Night Bike Club* and others from the community.



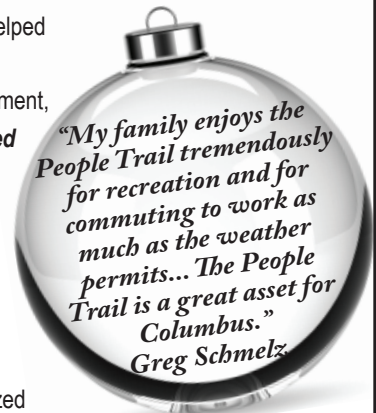
Connecting the paved trail, which ends on 500 N, to Owens Bend Park are ½ “sharrow lanes” (½ A street marking installed indicating motorists should be alert of a bicyclist that also may be using the lane.). This was the first addition to your People Trail System since the completion of the Haw Creek expansion in 2005. The Columbus Park Foundation has identified 14 projects from the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and will raise funds to complete these projects within the next 5 years.

Since its inception in 1986, the popularity of our People Trail System continues to grow. Its value is evident by the constantly populated trails throughout our city. The variety of users expands from bikers, walkers, and runners to those commuting to work or school or connecting to shopping destinations and events downtown. So we asked you, our community, to give your opinion of the People Trail System and your thoughts about expansion. We received an outpouring of support. We learned that the People Trails not only offer the benefit of healthy living but also spur our local economy, provide alternative transportation options, draw tourists, and attract those who may be considering a relocation to our fine community. If you have not yet posted your feedback and would like to, please go to [www.columbusparksandrec.com](http://www.columbusparksandrec.com).


As we plan for expansion, we would like to offer a creative way to make **your** mark on the People Trails by memorializing accomplishments. A personalized **Mile “Stone”** can celebrate achievements. Maybe you know someone who has participated in *Reach Healthy Communities’ “Commit to Commute”* or the *“Holiday Hustle”* and used the People Trails to reach a personal “milestone”. Maybe your child used the trail to train for an athletic event and beat their “personal record”.

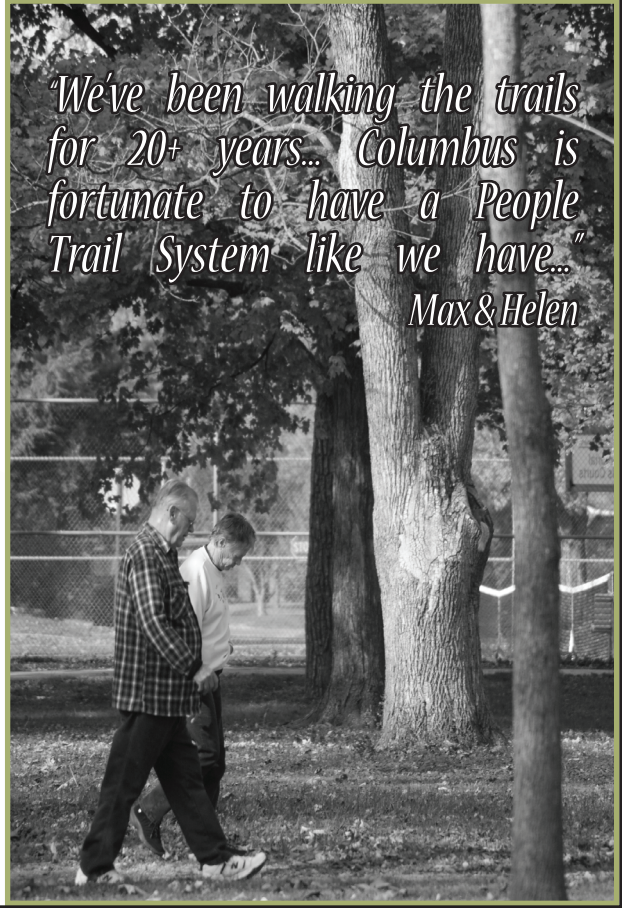


Perhaps the People Trails helped to reach a personal fitness goal. Whatever the achievement, a **Mile “Stone” Personalized Message** can be a lasting celebration while also a way to contribute to the expansion of our great People Trail System. A certificate acknowledging your gift with your personalized message will be provided for your records. The People Trails expansion is in its beginning stages and the areas available on or near the trail to display your **Mile “Stone” Message** will be provided as expansion evolves. Right now, your generous gift will help to make the expansion possible.



For just a **\$100.00 gift** you can purchase your **Mile “Stone” Message toward the People Trails expansion** by emailing [cbrummett@columbus.in.gov](mailto:cbrummett@columbus.in.gov). Thanks, in advance, for your commitment to making our trails a safer and efficient means of healthy living and transportation!

Happy Trails!  
  
David Hayward  
President, Columbus Park Foundation



# What Our Parks Provide

*“Being healthy means access to the resources needed to live a healthy life, and many healthy resources are fundamentally dependent on the design of our neighborhood environments. Accessible and safe parks are one essential ingredient to a healthy neighborhood, providing a place to exercise, play, spend time with friends and neighbors or just relax and recuperate. Research tells us that parks matter for health; the effects of nearby parks range from increasing physical activity to improving mental health...”* Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH, Director, Occupational & Environmental Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, UCSF

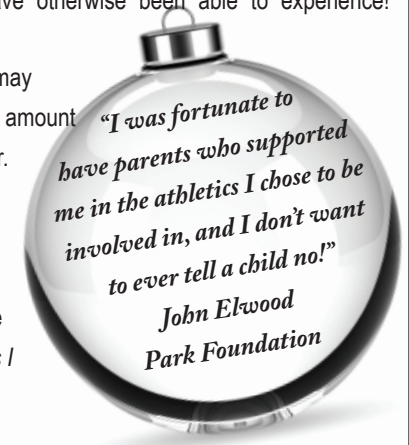
So what makes Columbus a great place to live? Swimming at Donner Aquatic Center or family picnics at Donner Park... a quiet moment by the pond or an evening concert with friends at Mill Race...baseball and softball games at Lincoln...soccer at Blackwell Park...children enjoying the playground at Harrison Ridge Park...ice skating at Hamilton Center... These are the images that come to mind from the 23 parks and green spaces maintained by Columbus Parks and Recreation. These are **your** parks and green spaces and they provide healthy living and quality of life.

# Chuck Wilt Youth Scholarships Fuel Kids’ Passion

Recipients of the *Chuck Wilt Youth Scholarship Program* received more than just a chance to participate in their favorite activity... For many of these young people, this allowed them to indulge in their passion for a sport or program they may not have otherwise been able to experience!

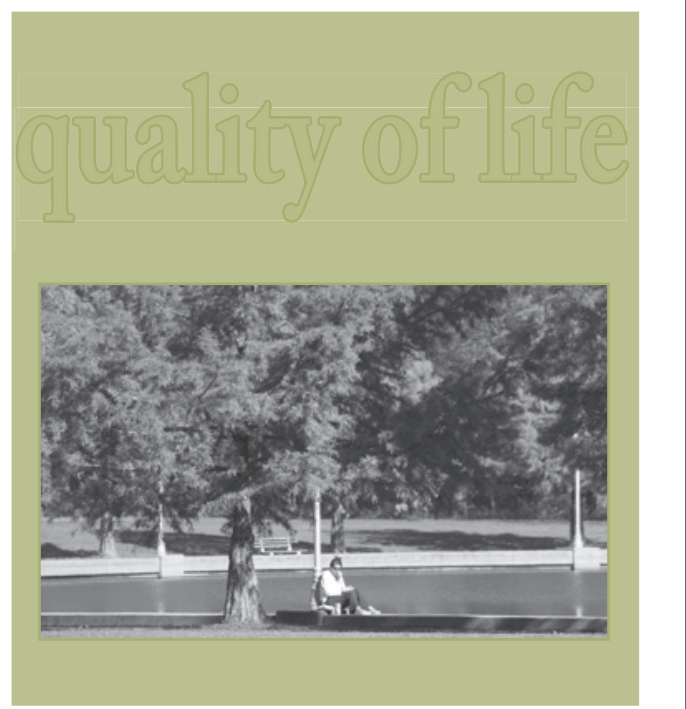
The demand continues to rise as more and more children need financial assistance to participate in what many of us may take for granted but for some can mean changing the course of a child’s life. Between 2002 and 2011, the total dollar amount of scholarships given through the *Scholarship Program* has gone from close to \$6,000.00 to over \$15,000.00 per year. 224 children received full or partial scholarships from the *Chuck Wilt Scholarship Program* thus far this year. These scholarship awards impacted 114 families who otherwise would not have the means to allow their child(ren) to pursue their passion. There were 350 activities made available to these children which included: gymnastics lessons, hockey and ice skating lessons, swimming lessons, soccer, baseball, day camps, sports camps and more. As put best by one of our long time members of The Park Foundation, *“I was fortunate to have parents who supported me in the athletics I chose to be involved in, and I don’t want to ever tell a child no!”* stated John Elwood.

**With a \$105 donation to the Columbus Park Foundation’s Chuck Wilt Youth Scholarship Program, you can allow a child to pursue their passion.** What greater gift is there? The Columbus Park Foundation’s goal is to build the Scholarship Fund to a minimum of \$300,000.00 so that scholarship dollars continue to grow and be available for young children. If a child’s participation in the great programs and athletics offered by Columbus Parks and Recreation is **your passion**, please consider the gift of a *“Scholarship”* today and change a child’s life with programs and athletics that build character and confidence!



You can be a part of making our Parks even better by giving a gift to help preserve and enhance our valuable community green spaces for future generations and for the health and wellbeing of all to enjoy.

**Give the gift of Parks & Recreation**, in honor of your loved one, by contributing to the **Columbus Park Foundation Fund to keep our parks and green spaces beautified.** Call Columbus Parks & Recreation at 812-376-2680 or email [cbrummett@columbus.in.gov](mailto:cbrummett@columbus.in.gov). Look for online giving options in 2012 on our new Columbus Park Foundation website coming soon...





# Let Us Continue the Legacy

As a community, we support a truly exceptional parks system with spaces and programs available and accessible to all. Public funding, however, is limited. Annual tax supported funding for our parks keeps them open and available to the people of Columbus and our visitors, but it doesn't provide enough dollars to expand services or cover the major expenditures to maintain our Columbus Parks and Recreation facilities, green spaces and programs.

That's where The Columbus Park Foundation "fills in" by continuing the vision of the generations who bequeathed this legacy, dating as far back as 1916 when William H. Donner gifted a plot of land to the City of Columbus.

Since 1988, the Columbus Park Foundation has raised funds by providing donors the opportunity to make their mark on valuable programs and services provided by the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. These programs and services include our *Special Swim Program* for those with special needs, the *Come Out and Play* organized playground program for children during summer months, preservation of parks and green spaces, the *Chuck Wilt Scholarship Program* so all children can participate in athletics and programs, *People Trails* for our community to use for exercise and transportation and so much more...

An example of those who impacted our Columbus Parks and Recreation Programs and Services are included in the insert to our newsletter. In addition, we recognize the over 1500 hours of volunteer service by generous community members who have provided: an engineer analysis to improve energy efficiency, cleaning of trails and parks, high school senior projects to contribute to programs or green spaces, painting, planting of trees, and help with events and programs. What a great community we have!

**If you would like to carry on the legacy of Columbus Parks and Recreation's programs and services for years to come, please contribute to the Columbus Park Foundation Endowment Fund so that your dollars can grow beyond today and assure our future generations the access to quality parks and recreation.** Your bequest or donation will help our parks and programs thrive. You can be sure your gift will be used to make a significant difference in the quality of life for our community, beyond just today.



*"When we build  
let us... build forever  
Let it not be for present delight  
nor for present alone  
Let it be such work  
as our descendants will thank us for"*  
John Ruskin  
Taken from The William H. Donner Foundation, Inc.

*It's not too early to plan for the 11th Annual Tour De Trails...  
Mark your calendars!*

The 8K Run/5K Run/5K Walk is Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. We're working on a new start/finish location so be sure to sign up for Columbus Parks & Recreation's E-Updates at [www.columbusparksandrec.com](http://www.columbusparksandrec.com) (select Park Foundation or People Trails NEWS during sign up) to get all the details! We're excited to be "on the move" this year to a brand new course and location!

**Don't miss the 7th Annual Tour de Trails Bicycle Challenge on Saturday, May 19, 2012** with our start/finish at beautiful Mill Race Park. Participants can choose our 20K, 50K or 75K courses, with the chance to ride on the newest section of People Trails, the Owens Bend Trail! Remember to "like" our pages on Facebook for both events and plan to be there! All proceeds benefit the expansion and maintenance of our People Trails and THIS year will prove to be extra special. How? You'll have to attend to find out!

## *2010-2011 High School Projects to celebrate!*

Five area high school seniors chose projects to help with programs, People Trails and to beautify facilities for Columbus Parks and Recreation. Each student's project made a huge impact and we are grateful they chose us as the recipient of their creative ideas!

Andy Cox raised \$3,315.00 for our *Special Swim Program* by riding his bike from Angola to Madison in two days. What a commitment *and success!* We congratulate and thank Andy for his dedication and contribution. Our *Special Swim* participants will benefit tremendously from this generosity!

Brittany Conner raised \$558.00 for our *Come Out & Play, Summer Playground Program*. Children who have enjoyed the many benefits from the *Come Out & Play Program* will reap the rewards of this generous gift!

Alex Gorski and Tyler Holm used their artistic talent to paint a mural at our Park Operations facility and Gymnastic Center. Stop by and view this exceptional art. We are grateful for their willingness to share such talent for many to enjoy!

# years of memories



What a wonderful facility we have had in our community for 54 years. If you've been a long-time resident, you know the history... a once outdoor arena that was later brought indoors to offer year round recreation and extended programs; this it has certainly provided! Just consider the number of accomplishments, increased skills and opportunities for both youth and adults that Hamilton Center has provided over the years.

What started primarily as a place of recreation evolved into so much more. Think of how programs have grown beyond hockey and figure skating to now include speed skating and broomball. Add to all of this the consistent public skating hours that our community has enjoyed.

Hamilton Center is one attraction that makes our city unique. Columbus Parks and Recreation is honored to continue to provide our residents and visitors the many recreational and athletic opportunities at Hamilton Center. Columbus Parks and Recreation staff work hard everyday to provide a clean facility, high quality maintenance, and essential updates, all within the parameters of a very lean capital budget. Some of the most recently completed projects, increasing energy efficiency, therefore decreasing operational costs, include:

- **The installation of an "IntellEnergy" lighting system, which is conservatively projected to bring an annual cooling savings of 20%.**
- **Door and window upgrades to increase insulation, therefore decreasing the loss of energy.**
- **Astro-Rink low emissivity (the efficiency with which a material radiates infrared energy) ceiling over our two rinks to provide a complete air seal, increased "R" value and negate the radiant heat gain with its Low-E qualities; all to create an ideal arena environment. Additionally, a reflective ceiling reduces humidity condensation as well as improves the quality of lighting by 40%.**

The Columbus Park Foundation has provided some funding to reduce the discrepancies between what is needed to maintain our facilities and what is available in capital funds. To add to our efforts to increase the energy efficiency in Hamilton Center, a software system that regulates our heating and air conditioning use throughout the year was purchased. This too will bring increased savings to our operational costs. We want to thank The Carl Marshall Reeves and Mildred Almen Reeves Foundation, Inc. toward the purchase of this software program. We are so very grateful for donors, such as the Nunns, who recognize the need for our community to invest in the great, public amenities offered to Columbus' residents and visitors. What a generous contribution that will continue to defray costs for years to come!

**If you too would like to build on these great memories and provide more years of extraordinary opportunities for the youth and adults in our community and beyond, please designate your gift to Hamilton Center. Thank you for your passion!**



## 2011 Columbus Park Foundation Donors

Thank you for supporting parks and recreation in our community!

### Park Foundation Members & Spouses

David & Claudette Hayward  
Helen & Steve Kinsey  
Brian McBroom  
Tasha & David Mann  
Chap & Mary Ann Blackwell  
John & Amber Elwood  
Andy & Jaclyn Mann  
Chip & Julie Orben  
Ben Wagner  
Chuck & Geri Wilt  
Imelda Vazquez

### Donations over \$1,000

Arnholt Bros. Farm  
Andy Cox  
Bob & Elizabeth Crider  
Cummins Inc.  
Jean E. Hashman  
Healthy Communities  
Mike and Donna Keogh  
Pro-Tek Photography, Inc.  
Carl Marshall Reeves & Mildred Almen Reeves Foundation, Inc. (Mary Ann Nunn)  
River Rats - 4 D Ent.

### Donations \$751 - \$1,000

Atterbury Job Corps Center  
Matt and Melissa Battin  
G. Terrence Coriden  
Cummins Business Services  
Clarence & Inez Custer Foundation (Wm. Helmbrecht)  
Duke Energy Foundation - Chip Orben  
Amarjit & Marius Ghuman  
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Ted Stansbury  
The Bicycle Station  
Toyota Industrial Equipment Mfg., Inc.  
Tropical Smoothie Café  
Walmart  
White River Broadcasting - 104.9 - The River

### Donations \$501 - \$750

Cathy Dunn  
Ken Dunn  
Dunn & Associates - Cathy Dunn  
John and Amber Elwood  
Milestone Contractors L.P.

### Donations \$251 - \$500

Bartholomew REMC Membership  
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Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD.

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### Donations \$101 - \$250

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Amanda Reed  
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Tom & Christine Vujovich  
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### Donations up to \$100

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Jane Allender  
John Anderson  
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Martin Atwell

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Dennis Baute  
James Beall  
Steve Beem  
Becky Bell  
Carolee Berry  
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Jack Shirley  
Rachel Shirley  
Ryan Siefiring  
SIHO  
Sam & Fran Simmermaker  
Catherine Simmons  
Alessandra Simmons  
Brendon & Morgan Sims  
Scott & Garrison Sims  
Dan Smith  
Madeleine Smith  
Teresa Smith  
Smith and Syberg, Inc.  
Raymond & Nichole Snow  
Adam Synder  
Stephen Sollman  
Southern Indiana ENT, LLC  
- Anthony Sanders  
Southern Indiana Orthopedics  
Philip & Kathleen Speier  
Rebecca Sprague  
Eric & Pam Stacy  
Lisa Stadler  
Steve Stanton  
Raeleigh Stark  
Sharon Stark

State Farm Insurance - Al Furlani  
Boyce & Cameron  
Stattenfield  
Michael Staublin  
Rich & Linda Steele  
Todd Stephens  
Sandy Storm  
Alan Kilbarger & Julia Stumpff  
Paul Sturgell  
Sarah Suksiri  
Kevin & Addison Sullivan  
Sandy Swain  
Dennis Sylvester  
Mark & Jo Tabler  
Christell Tallent  
Josh Teipen  
Dan & Sue Thomas  
Mark & Kathy Thompson  
Heather Thompson  
Jennie Thompson-Griffin  
Bill Thorpe  
Total Fitness  
Jamie Troutman  
Trent Tyree  
George Van Horn  
Imelda Vazquez  
Jeff & Luci Van Valer  
Rajesh Vegesna  
Leoncio Velez  
Voelz Law LLC  
Jim & Peggy Voelz  
Melissa Voils  
Elizabeth Von Hoene  
Rick & Patti Wade  
Kelly Waggoner  
Roger & Sue Wallace  
Mike Walters  
Pat & Diane Ward  
Yukinori Watanabe  
Maureen Weikert  
Kurt & Lisa Weisner  
Jessica Weldishofer,  
Miranda & Molly Brandes  
Christian, Stacey, Elizabeth & Emily Wessel  
Leanne Wheeler  
Richard Wigh  
Erik Wildfield  
Chris & Cheryl Wilkins  
Troy & April Williams  
Susan Wilson  
Chuck & Geri Wilt  
Robert Wire  
Gene Wise  
Tom Yonushonis  
Kent & Edith Ziegler

### Chuck Wilt Youth Scholarship Program

Loren & Cindy Brummett  
David & Elizabeth Clark  
Tracy & Kevin Embree  
Paul & Karen Finke  
Cindy & Eric Frey  
Richard & Alice Gold  
Brad & Jeannine Gonsalves  
Jean Hashman

Dick & Jo Ann Hedrickson  
Halina Hopkins  
Mark & Peg Lindenlaub  
Larry & Lynn Lucas  
Brian McBroom  
Steve & Cindy Meyer  
Repp Associates  
Foundation - Dan Perry  
Nan & Bill Russell  
Judy Shepherd  
Sam & Fran Simmermaker  
Nancy, Kevin, Eryk & Valerie Slupski  
Gregg & Judy Summerville  
Chuck & Geri Wilt

### Columbus Tree Fund

Clint & Laura Garrett  
Sharon Stark

In Honor of Nick Rush  
Let's Grow Garden Club

In Honor of Chuck Wilt  
Let's Grow Garden Club

In Honor of Gary Walker  
Dennis Sylvester

In Honor of Claudette Hayward  
John & Connie McGinty  
Diana Parsons  
Judy Wagner

In Memory of Bill Anderson  
Bill Anderson's Siblings  
Nan & Steven Burton  
Phil & Mary Anderson

In Memory of Jolie Crider  
Robert & Elizabeth Crider

In Memory of Dave Glackin  
Chris & Debbie George

In Memory of Karin Golden  
Page & Beth Gifford

In Memory of Roger Reed  
Amanda Reed

In Memory of Russell Hashman  
Jean Hashman

In Memory of Ron Vogt  
Anton J.E. Hopkins